



The kappu is a symbol of Natib Qadish

Natib Qadish is a modern polytheistic religion based upon the religious practices of ancient Canaan and the veneration of the Canaanite Deities. This religion is often included under the "umbrella" category of modern Paganism, Neopaganism, or Reconstructionism.

To the ancient Canaanites, religion was inherently a part of life such that they did not have a separate word that means "religion". The word "Natib" in the ancient Ugaritic language means "path," while "qadish" means "sacred," thus the name means "sacred path".

Sometimes a Canaanite Pagan is called a "Qadish" ("Qadishuma" plural) simply referring to the belief that we are all "sacred ones".

Visit: <http://canaanitepath.com>

Geography

Ancient Canaan corresponded with areas which are now part of the modern-day Middle-Eastern countries of Syria, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinian territories.

History

For more information regarding the history of Canaan, please see Canaan, Ugarit, Ebla, Tyre, Sidon, and Byblos.

The Phoenicians are often classified as one of the sister or daughter cultures of Canaan, and Carthage was a daughter- colony of the Phoenicians. Some modern practitioners blend Phoenician religion into their Canaanite religious practices.

The Hebrew people may also be descended from the Canaanites, with possible early polytheistic roots of the Jewish religion being cited to demonstrate a close tie to the ancient Canaanites. However, it should be noted that Natib Qadish, Canaanite Paganism is not the same religion as that of the Hebrews, and it is also not the same religious path as Judeo-Paganism, Ceremonial magic or practices involving the Kabbalah, although some Canaanite

Pagans may choose to incorporate these a part of their own personal practices.

The modern religion has not been established long enough to have much written about it in a history section. An early self-proclaimed Canaanite-Phoenician Pagan is Lilinah biti-Anat who, with three other friends in California, began to practice a form of Canaanite-Phoenician Paganism. Lilinah biti-Anat's site Qadash Kinahnu was the first site concerning the subject in some depth. The first networking online group for Canaanite Pagans was started in the late 1990s by Qadash Kinahnu, but due to lack of participation was dissolved several years later.

For more information on Natib Qadish, visit: <http://canaanitepath.com>

Deities

Many of the Deities revered by Canaanite Pagans include the Deities listed in the Ugaritic texts found in modern-day Ras Shamra around 1928. Some of these Deities include:

- Ilu, the benevolent King of the Deities
 - see also
- Athirat, wise Queen of the Deities
 - see also the Hebrew Asherah
- Anat, impetuous adolescent Goddess of war and passion
 - see also the Greek Astarte and the composite Goddess Qudshu known to the Egyptians
- Ba'al-Hadad, also known as Ba'lu - God of the Storms
 - see also Baal and Hadad
- Kothar-wa-Khasis, God of Crafting and Magic, his name may mean "skillful and clever"
 - see also the Egyptian God Ptah
- Shapshu, also known as Shapash, Goddess of the Sun
- Yam, also known as Nahar, the serpentine God of the Seas
- Mot, God of Death and Sterility
- Rashap, God of Plague, and perhaps healing
 - see also Reshep or Reshef
- Athtartu, also known as Athtarat, a Goddess who is often paired with Anat
 - see also the Greek Astarte and the Biblical Ashtoreth
- Gapan and Ugar, Gods of Vine and Field, respectively are helpers of Ba'al
- Choron, also known as Horon; God of Treaties, Curses, and perhaps healing venomous bites and stings
 - see also Egyptian Hauron
- Yarikh, God of the Moon
- Nikkal-wa-Ib or simply Nikkal, Goddess of Orchards, and perhaps a former Mesopotamian Moon deity
- The Kathirat, also written as Kotharat: the seven bird-like Goddesses who ensure human fertility
- Athtar, an astral God and/or a God of Irrigation
- Shachar and Shalim, the dawn and dusk
- The kkbm (perhaps "kakabuma") -this may refer to "Star Gods", or simply "stars".

Rituals

In Natib Qadish, there are three basic kinds of offerings:

- Burnt Offerings: offering, usually foodstuffs, is completely burned. This is a very rare kind of offering.
- Peace Offerings: offering is made complete and whole. Food or material items may be then used in service of the Deities, buried, or, if food, left for the animals. Libations can be consumed in service of the Deities at a communal meal, or may be poured into the earth. "Peace" offerings are the most common of offerings.
- Performance Offerings: often consist of dance, recitation of myth, or artistic creation to be used in service to the Deities.

Ethics

The ancient Canaanites had a concept of "sin," but it differed from the modern concept. To the Canaanites, it did not necessarily mean a disobedience to a Divine mandate. Instead, it meant that one committed an act that caused social and universal imbalance. In order to free oneself of sin, one would do an act to repair the imbalance, and/or perform acts to cleanse and purify oneself, and perform certain incantations.

Holidays

Natib Qadish celebrate holidays at certain times of the year, as well as observing the phases of the moon.

The Shanat Qadish is a reconstructed Canaanite festival calendar based upon the Ugaritic texts from roughly 14-13th Century BCE found at Ugarit, upon the Gezer Calendar written in roughly 925 BCE, and upon the seasonal occurrences in this part of the world during the Bronze Age. The word "Ashuru" means "festival" or "feast".

- Ashuru Mathbatu: Festival of Dwellings, new moon of month of Autumnal Equinox
- Marzichu: Funerary Celebration, sometimes placed at new moon in November-December
- Ashuru Aru: Festival of Light, Winter Solstice
- Ashuru Shamnu: Festival of Oil, seventh day after the new moon after winter solstice
- Ashuru Gannu: Festival of the Garden, Spring Equinox